THE

BOSTON MEDICAL AND SURGICAL

JOURNAL.

Vol. XXI. Wednesday, October 23, 1839. No. 11.

REMARKS ON SOME OF THE MEDICINAL SPRINGS OF VIRGINIA.

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[Read before the Boston Society for Medical Improvement, Sept. 23d, 1839, and communicated for the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.]

The medicinal springs of Virginia are daily attracting more attention from invalids in all parts of our country. The number that resorts to them is annually increasing, and while many reap advantage from the use of the waters, a few, from an ignorance, perhaps, of their powers, return disappointed and without relief.

It is important that there should be correct information on this subject; that those only should undertake the journey who have a reasonable prospect of benefit; for it cannot be denied that at present it is attended with expense, fatigue, and inconveniences of various kinds, that are very annoying to feeble and infirm persons.

With a view of contributing my mite to this desirable object, I have thrown together, though in some haste, the following remarks. They are the result, in part, of personal observation, made in a recent visit to the springs; but more of inquiry of those whom I met there. They may not be perfectly accurate in all respects, but I believe that they are essentially so, at least in all important particulars.

There are eight principal springs, and I propose to speak of four, which are among the most celebrated of the number, in the order in which I visited them.

Before doing this, it may perhaps be well to say something of the routes which lead to them. There are three principal ones from Baltimore; one by the way of Winchester, another by Washington, and a third by Richmond.

If you take the first, you are conveyed to Winchester, a distance of 110 miles, by railway, passing through Frederick in Maryland, and Harper's Ferry in Virginia; the road, in its whole extent, being through a fertile and interesting country. From Winchester you are conveyed in coaches, and the mail will carry you in two days to the Warm Springs; but if you prefer to take an extra carriage, you will not arrive there so soon by half a day at least. From Winchester to Harrisonburg, 70 miles, the road, through the rich valley of the Shenandoah, is very rough; when that is completed, which is now constructing, and this will no doubt be before the close of another year, a more delightful route can hardly be imagined. The road from Harrisonburg to the springs is very good.

In going by the second route, you are carried to Washington by the railway, thence down the Potomac 60 miles to Potomac Creek, thence nine miles by coach to Fredericksburgh, and thence to Louisa Court House by railway, between 80 and 90 miles. Here you take the stage to Charlottesville, 32 miles, and thence to the Warm Springs, which may be reached in a day from Charlottesville. The travelling on this route is good, excepting the road between Louisa Court House and Charlottesville, which is bad in wet weather, but very tolerable at other times.

The way by Richmond is, perhaps, at present the least fatiguing of any. A steamboat conveys you to that city from Baltimore, and you are carried on a railway to Louisa Court House, thence you pursue the same course as by the Fredericksburgh road.

Going by either of these routes, the Warm Springs are the first that are reached. They are situated on the western side of a mountain of great height, called the Warm Spring Mountain, which is crossed by a road constructed with such skill, that it is passed without fatigue or danger, though it winds along the edge of precipices of fearful height. The temperature of the water, at the Warm Springs, is 96 degrees at all seasons of the year. It is so perfectly pellucid, that it is difficult to realize, when you first look into the spring, that there is any water there, the objects at the bottom are seen with so much distinctness. Bubbles of air are constantly rising to the surface, and these have been ascertained to be principally nitrogen, which, I believe, is by no means uncommon in sulphureous thermal springs. The water is not disagreeable to the taste, or, at least, it was not so to me, except from its temperature. It contains sulphur, magnesia, lime, and various other substances in minute proportions; but its virtues, I am inclined to think, are owing to its temperature rather than to any medicinal agents combined with it. The sulphur may in some cases have a good effect, for the water is so much impregnated with it as to partake strongly of its odor. The supply of water is very copious. It is received into a room 38 feet in diameter, and is allowed to rise to a depth of five feet when it is intended for the gentlemen to bathe, and four feet for the ladies. After it has been used, the water is drawn off, and the bath filled again in a quarter of an hour. The usual practice at the springs is to bathe twice, or even three times a day, and remain in the water about fifteen minutes each time. It is advised to avoid active exercise while in the bath, and to be rubbed with a coarse cloth immediately on coming out, which office I can say, from experience, is faithfully performed by a black attendant.

It is difficult to conceive of a more delightful bath; it is almost worth a journey to Virginia to enjoy it. It is not only agreeable at the time, but its effects are in a high degree pleasant, producing no lassitude, but rather imparting vigor to the system. It is usual to take the first bath at 5 o'clock in the morning, and it is then particularly grateful, for the temperature of the air at that hour, even in summer, is not much above 50 degrees.

These springs are principally resorted to by patients afflicted with rheumatism, gout, and paralytic affections, though all classes of invalids who go to the Virginia watering places usually pass a few days at the Warm Springs, if it be only to enjoy the delicious bathing. One patient, a highly cultivated and intelligent man, derived great benefit while I was there, from these baths. He was afflicted with the gout to a distressing degree, which was complicated, also, with an affection of the spine, producing a partial paralysis of the right hand. The effects at the time were perfectly wonderful, but whether they were permanent or not, I am unable to say. He was relieved to a very considerable extent, not only of his lameness, but also of his pain, which at times had been very acute. He bathed constantly twice or three times a day, and remained in the water half an hour each time. He frequently assured me, after bathing, that instead of having any feeling of languor or debility, he was refreshed and invigorated by it.

The Warm Springs will, I doubt not, be found beneficial in most cases of debility in which there is no organic disease, though it is probable that much of the benefit which such patients derive from a visit to them, should be set down to the pure mountain air which they enjoy, their entire change of diet, and total abstinence from stimulating liquors, for none of these are drank at the public tables at the watering places in Virginia.

Five miles beyond the Warm Springs are situated the Hot Springs. They are six in number, varying from 98 to 106 degrees in temperature, which, like that of the Warm Springs, remains the same throughout the year. The water of the Hot Springs contains various substances, as iron, magnesia, soda and lime, carbonic acid gas, nitrogen, which is constantly escaping from it in bubbles, and a minute portion of sulphuretted hydrogen. When taken internally, it is said to act as a diuretic, diaphoretic, and a mild aperient. Whatever difference of opinon there may be as to the power which it is able to exert on the system when taken into the stomach, there can be no doubt of its salutary influence when judiciously used as an external remedy.

The mere fact that the articles which this water contains are not separately of a very powerful kind, is no proof that they may not be capable of acting with great energy on the system, when combined in the laboratory of nature. It is well known to every one at all acquainted with chemical science, that compounds of a very dissimilar character are produced by the combination of the same elements in different proportions, producing substances, in some instances, of far greater activity than either of the articles of which they are composed; and there is, perhaps, no better illustration of this than that offered by the union of oxygen and nitrogen, producing, when combined in one proportion, atmospheric air, nitrous oxyd in another, and nitric acid in a third. Nor are we sure that we are able to detect all the ingredients which these waters contain. The very tests which reveal some of them to us, may have the power of destroying others, and these, too, may be those in which the medicinal properties reside. The remediate properties, then, of mineral waters can not be determined with any certainty by an analysis, however nicely conducted, but must be ascertained by experience, and this speaks well for those of the waters of the Hot Springs.

They have been found, when taken in combination with the bath, of great use in gout, rheumatism, neuralgic affections, functional diseases of the liver, debility of various kinds, especially that connected with, and consequent on, a derangement of the digestive organs. These springs are owned by Dr. Goode, a very intelligent physician, under whose direction the baths are conducted. By this means, the sweating bath, a remedy of great power, is administered in many instances with the happiest effects, and in all with perfect safety.

The temperature both of the Warm and the Hot Springs, as I have already observed, is uniform at all seasons; and in relation to this point, when speaking of some of the thermal waters of Europe, Professor Daubeny remarks, that "we may be authorized on general grounds to presume, that the temperature of thermal springs, in countries not exposed to present volcanic operations, undergoes no sensible change during a long period of time." It is well known that an earthquake or an eruption of a volcano has often produced a change in the temperature of thermal springs that were even at some distance from the place where these phenomena occurred.

It is, perhaps, not easy to account for the high temperature of the water of thermal springs. By some it has been attributed to the agency of electricity. But this is rather a wild conjecture, than the result of any facts or observations. Various phenomena are regarded on very slight grounds as electrical, partly because we are unable to explain them, and partly because we do not know all the laws of electricity, while at the same time we have ample evidence that it is an agent of tremendous power. Whatever the fact may be, it is certain that there is no proof that it is in any way concerned in the production of the high temperature of thermal waters.

Another theory supposes that the heat of these springs is produced by certain chemical processes going on in the interior of the earth, and that these processes are attended with an absorption of oxygen and a consequent extrication of caloric. While another opinion maintains that the temperature of thermal springs is owing to the central heat of the globe, and that it increases in proportion to the depth from which they proceed. This opinion was supported by Laplace, and is, perhaps, more generally adopted at the present day by scientific men than any other. It is well known* that the temperature of the earth increases as we descend into it about one degree for every hundred feet; and if the increase continues in this proportion, we should arrive at boiling water at a depth of less than three miles.

I am not, however, conversant enough with this subject to offer an opinion on the comparative merits of these theories. It is a point which falls within the province of geology, and the zeal and success with which that science is now pursued may lead us to expect some elucidation of this intricate topic.

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* See a paper by Professor Daubeny in the Sixth Report of the British Association for the Advancement of Science.

The most celebrated of all the Virginia springs, and probably the most powerful, is the White Sulphur, which is 35 miles beyond the Hot Springs, and 6 miles west of the Alleghany Mountains. Though situated in a valley, it is, like all the springs in that neighborhood, in an elevated position, with a delightful climate in summer, and surrounded with mountainous scenery of great beauty. Independently of the benefit that may be derived from the medicinal waters, a better situation for an invalid during the hot season can hardly be imagined. It has the advantage of a salubrious and invigorating air, an agreeable temperature, cool at morning and evening, the thermometer ranging at those periods during the summer, between 50 and 60 degrees, and rarely attaining a greater height than 80 degrees at any part of the day, and an elasticity in the atmosphere that prevents the heat from being at any time oppressive, and enables the invalid to take active exercise in the open air during the day without fatigue.

This spring was known soon after the settlement of that part of the country, which took place about 70 years since. It is said to have been a favorite Moose Lick, and that hunters resorted to it in pursuit of this animal. In this way its medicinal properties first became known; but in consequence of the thinness of the population and the badness of the roads, it has not, till within a few years, been much frequented.

Though the odor and taste of the water, from its being strongly impregnated with sulphur, are disagreeable to most persons on first using it, I noticed that the dogs, that are kept in great numbers at the Springs for the purpose of hunting, seemed to be very partial to it. I was scarcely ever at the spring that I did not see one or more of these animals lapping the water with great apparent relish as it flowed from it.

The water, of which there is an abundant supply, is at a temperature of 60 degrees throughout the year. It is very transparent and slightly sparkling, from the gases which it contains; these are sulphuretted hydrogen, carbonic acid gas, nitrogen and oxygen. Bubbles of air, principally nitrogen, are constantly rising to the surface of the water and escaping from it, in the same way as in the Warm and Hot Springs. Its other contents are lime, magnesia, soda, iron, organic matter and precipitated sulphur. This latter ingredient seems to be very abundant, and a copious deposit of it may be seen at all times at the bottom of the spring, though it is usually cleaned out every few days. From the white appearance of this deposit the spring takes its name.

The water of the White Sulphur Spring no doubt possesses medicinal properties of great power. Multitudes who resort to it annually are benefited by its use, while a few, perhaps, deriving no advantage, are inclined to believe that the water has no remediate powers. But it should be recollected that these waters are not calculated to relieve all cases, and that in those where they might be useful, they may prove mischievous if not judiciously taken. Many persons, immediately on arriving at the springs, drink the water immoderately, and not a few suffer for their rashness. When taken in this way it is said to produce a powerful determination of blood to the head, attended with pain and dizziness, and sometimes followed by severe cerebral symptoms.

Though this water is nauseous to most persons on first drinking it, a relish for it is soon acquired, and in a short time, in most instances, it becomes a favorite beverage. I met with several individuals, in perfect health, who declared to me that they preferred it to any other liquor, and drank it merely as a luxury.

It is said to act on the kidneys, the bowels, the liver, and the skin. As a diuretic, its effects are very soon apparent, but it usually requires some days before it produces a decided action of the bowels. Its operation on the liver, too, is not manifest for some time, and where there is a great torpor of this organ, some auxiliary means may at first be required. Its effect on the skin is very apparent, though not immediate; after drinking the water a few weeks the perspiration becomes strongly impregnated with sulphur.

The use of this water is no doubt beneficial in a variety of affections, and I am inclined to believe that it will be found signally useful in those functional derangements of the digestive organs, which are so common, and at the same time so unmanageable, especially when they are connected with disturbance of the liver, or a torpid state of the bowels. The whole tribe of dyspeptics, if their trouble be not the effect of organic disease, may resort, with a well-grounded expectation of relief, to these healing waters.

Another numerous class of patients, known under the very common, but not very significant name of bilious, is said to find, very often, relief from them. Many persons of this description come to the springs from the south and south west, whose constitutions have been shattered by the diseases incident to the climate, and they almost invariably derive benefit from a residence there. In such individuals there is, hardly without exception, some derangement of the biliary secretion, consequent very often on intermittents and other fevers of the country.

Chronic rheumatism is a disease from which relief is, in very many instances, obtained by a resort to this spring. In this case great advantage is derived from the external as well as internal use of the waters, and for this purpose an excellent bathing house has this year been erected, with every convenience for using the bath in every form and at any temperature that may be desired.

Cutaneous eruptions of various kinds are frequently removed by a similar management.

Many of the distressing symptoms, which are by no means the unusual attendants of chronic affections of the urinary organs, are in many cases alleviated, and in some entirely removed, by a judicious use of the White Sulphur Water.

There are other maladies over which, it is said, it exerts a favorable control. But it is unnecessary to enumerate them, partly because I cannot speak from personal knowledge, and partly because I suspect that in some of them the advocates of the springs may have exaggerated the virtues of the water.

But of this much I feel confident, that these springs will, in a majority of cases, be useful not only in those diseases which I have named, but also to that numerous class of patients who are affected with debility connected with functional derangement, or that which is consequent on previous disease, or excess and imprudence in living. All persons who resort to the White Sulphur Spring for the purpose of health, would do well to consult Dr. Moorman, the resident physician, who is well qualified to advise as to the mode of using the waters and the cases to which they are adapted. They will find him to be an intelligent and well-educated physician.

The Sweet Springs are 17 miles from the White Sulphur by the road, but not more than half that distance in a straight line, as the road winds gradually over the mountains, and thus avoids the steep and precipitous ascents which would be unavoidable if it crossed them in the nearest direction. The temperature of the water is 76 degrees, and is the same at all seasons. It is very abundant, and is situated in one of the most beautiful mountain valleys of that region. It contains a large quantity of gas, particularly the carbonic acid gas, and this imparts to it a sparkling and agreeable taste. In what way it obtained the name of sweet, I cannot learn; it certainly does not deserve it, for it is decidedly acidulous. It contains lime, magnesia, soda, iron, &c., but in what quantities I do not know. An analysis of all these waters has recently been made by Professor Rodgers, of the University of Virginia, and it is understood that the result of his investigations will soon be given to the public.

The water of the Sweet Springs, when taken internally, is not supposed to possess medicinal properties equal to that of some of the other springs; but in combination with the bath, it is found useful in many diseases, as rheumatism, paralytic affections, and general debility. It has also been extolled in dyspepsia, and in that countless tribe of maladies which follow in its train. It is certainly a very agreeable bath, pleasant while you are in it, and followed by a delightful glow as soon as you come out.

There are four other springs, of greater or less degree of celebrity, which I did not visit; these are the Blue, Salt, Grey, and Red Sulphur. The two first are said to resemble very closely the White Sulphur, having the same properties, though in less degree. The Grey Sulphur has been extolled for dyspeptic affections, and the Red Sulphur for its beneficial effects in pulmonary diseases. But having no personal knowledge of any of them, I do not feel that I could offer anything that would be worth your attention.

ESCAPE OF WORMS AT THE NAVEL.

To the Editor of the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.

Sir,—I send you the particulars of the following case, hoping, if you should choose to publish it, I might obtain information in regard to similar cases from some of the gentlemen who patronize the Journal, and whose skill and experience might have brought them in contact with something similar.

Some time in November, 1838, I was called upon to prescribe for a child about two years old, who had an ulceration of the umbilicus, which was of some weeks' standing, and which soon healed up, but shortly broke out again. As often as it healed it broke out, which was quite a number of times during the winter and spring. Some time in July past, the child complained of something biting, and on being examined, the head of a large lumbrici was found protruding from the ulcer in the umbilicus, and from which place seventeen large lumbrici have since been discharged. The child appears to be in good health.

Fairville, N. Y., Oct. 9, 1839. C. G. Pomeroy, M.D.

THE EFFECTS OF THE HUMAN MILK ON THE CHILD, DURING MENSTRUATION.

BY E. WILKINSON, CUMBERLAND, ENG.

As the function of menstruation, and the effects of a morbid and an unhealthy condition of it on the female constitution, are now pretty well understood by the profession, it would be needless to discuss them here, were it not that I consider that one effect of menstruation has not hitherto obtained that grave consideration with medical men which its practical importance seems to demand. Having frequently observed that human milk has a decidedly laxative effect on the child during the period of menstruation, I am led to conclude that it may not only prove injurious to the offspring at the time, but that it may also frequently be the means of laying the foundation of other infantile diseases. It is a fact now pretty well ascertained that whenever the mother's constitution is impaired (or even only slightly influenced) by either mental or physical causes, during the period of lactation, the secretion of milk is changed in quality, and a morbid effect is consequently produced on the constitution of the child from the physical changes it is supposed to have undergone. My attention was particularly directed to the consideration of this subject a short time ago, on observing a child of my own very much laxed from the cause here alluded, as may be inferred from the subsequent account. On inquiry, I ascertained that not only this child, but also my two other children, had been similarly affected whenever the mother menstruated during lactation. The stools which this child had were exactly like those of a suckling calf laboring under diarrhœa, both as regards color, consistence and smell. As to the appearance and color of the stools, they presented that of a liquid mixture of chalk and ipecacuanha. They appeared to consist of a small portion of excrementitious matter dissolved (and as if well triturated) in a large proportion of serous fluid. The fœtor of them was excessive and almost intolerable, and, as I thought, not dissimilar to that of the menstrual secretion itself. The youngest child had the breast until he was nineteen months old, and the mother menstruated regularly during the last seven months. She also menstruated regularly from the first month after her two first accouchments during the whole period of lactation. M. Donné has ascertained that human milk is a fluid holding in solution lactic sugar, salts, a small quantity of fatty matter, and of caseum; and, in suspension, a number of globules composed of butter, which are of various sizes, and soluble in ether. The first milk, or colostrum, contains, in addition, particular bodies, which M. Donné designates "granular;" these latter do not disappear entirely before the end of the first month after delivery; they sometimes, however, continue beyond that time. M. Retzius, it would appear, has discovered free phosphoric and lactic acids in the *menstrual blood;* the acids hold the coloring matter in solution. Although I am no great advocate for medical theory and hypothesis, yet it is probable that according to the recent discoveries of the composition of the human milk by Donné, and of the menstrual blood by Retzius, the former may be deprived of a considerable portion of its nutritive ingredients, and surcharged with saline matter; hence its purgative effect on the child. If this is really the condition of the milk during the menstrual period, it is evident that it will not only produce diarrhœa and nervous irritation, but that it will likewise prove defective in nutriment, and thus it may, indirectly as it were, lay the foundation for various infantile diseases. If, therefore, the precise condition and composition of the lacteal secretion during menstruation could be ascertained, we might then perhaps discover the means of preventing its morbid influence on the constitution of the child, provided it does actually produce such an effect upon it at the period. Until, however, this be accomplished, we must rest contented with our present knowledge of this important and interesting subject.—*Lancet.*

EMPYEMA AND REMARKABLE FISTULA OF THE CHEST.

Frederick Wetzel, aged 19 years, a miner in the Black Forest, Germany, since his tenth year had always been well, excepting that he had frequent epistaxis.

On the 25th of April, 1834, he was attacked by pleuro-pneumonia, for which local and general bleedings were employed, blisters, nitre, calomel, and, finally, acetate of ammonia and tartarized antimony. The symptoms diminished, but after some days the breathing became more difficult, the pains returned in the left side of the chest from time to time, the cough recurred, the expectoration was purulent, his strength fell, he had hectic fever, night sweats, frequent shiverings, a dull weight on the left side, deep respiration excited cough, and decubitus on the right side produced access of suffocation.

Infusion of senega root, digitalis, quinine, decoction of Iceland moss, yellow sulphuret of antimony, Dover's powder, and Seidlitz water, did not ameliorate the condition of the patient. In about eight days more the right cavity of the chest was considerably prominent, œgophony was manifested, the respiratory *bruit* was null, and percussion elicited a dull sound. The cellular tissue of that side of the chest became œdematous, as also did the left foot.

On the 21st of June, between the 5th and 7th ribs, there appeared a tumor of the size of a man's fist, adherent, and completely fluctuating. An opening made in it with a lancet produced two pints and a half of a thick and fœtid pus. The patient, previously threatened with suffocation, was immediately relieved. At each dressing, which was renewed daily, there issued about a pound of pus. The quantity diminished, little by little, as the pus could not flow freely, while it became yet more fœtid.

Some weeks after this a fresh fluctuation appeared, between the 7th and 8th ribs, and new opening was made, sufficiently large to liberate the pus freely. A sound introduced into the cavity formed by a pseudo-membrane *passed inwards and from before backwards,* to a depth of six inches. The sac was abundantly capacious. Care was taken to sustain the patient by tonics, and to evacuate the cavity always by means of lukewarm injections of camomile tea. In 1835 and 1836 it was sought in vain to heal the opening by means of myrrh, decoction of quinine, salicine, oak-bark and madder-root. During the three years that the fistula remained open, it was impossible to prevent the entrance of air, which, however, had no other inconvenient effect than that of rendering the respiration more difficult. The pus which issued at this time seldom exceeded two tablespoonfuls in quantity. Very serious hæmorrhages within the purulent cavity threatened life on many occasions in August and December, 1836, and June, September and December, 1837. These appeared to have supplanted the epistaxis to which the patient had been subject. The quantity of blackish fluid and coagulated blood sometimes reached a pint and a half. On stopping the mouth of the fistula, the blood occasioned severe oppression, and even cough, with sanguineous expectoration. As soon as the issue was re-established these symptoms ceased.

From time to time the patient is troubled with abdominal symptoms, which a purgative removes. He has often, also, palpitations of the heart; the urine is then diminished, and the hands and feet are œdematous. Digitalis always disperses these symptoms. At present, as during the preceding summer, the patient feels very well, attends to his domestic duties, and even walks nearly three quarters of a mile at a time.—*Medicinische Annalen.*

MORTALITY AND SICKNESS IN GREAT BRITAIN.

A "Statistical Account of the British Empire," by J. R. Macculloch, Esq., has lately been published. The 7th chapter, by Wm. Farr, Esq., on "Vital Statistics," is peculiarly interesting to the medical reader. The following is an extract:

"The physiological changes in the human body indicate that it was framed to continue in healthy action 70 or 80 years; yet owing to hereditary weakness, or a vicious tendency, and the imperfect adaptation of parts of the external world to its organization, a certain number of every generation fall sick, and of these a certain number die at all ages; in such a ratio, however, that from birth to the age of puberty the sickness and mortality decline; while from puberty they increase slowly, in a geometrical progression, up to the 50th or 60th year, and then more rapidly to the end. In comparing, therefore, the sanatory state of different nations, it is not enough to know the absolute mortality or sickness to which they are subject; as experience has proved that these may be nearly the same, yet, from their bearing differently on the periods of childhood, manhood or old age, have a very different effect on the national strength and resources.

"From observations to which we shall again have occasion to recur, it appears that in manhood, when 1 person to 100 dies annually, 2 are constantly sick; and although this exact relation is, perhaps, not preserved in infancy and old age, or where the rate of mortality deviates much from the standard, it may be safely assumed as a near approximation to the truth. Admitting, then, that the annual mortality is 2.13 per cent., after the corected returns, and that the population of England and Wales is 14,000,000, the total number constantly disabled by sickness will amount to 600,000 persons; and if the same proportion be extended to Scotland and Ireland, to 1,130,000. This reduces the efficient population of the empire 1-24th part; and the productive power, so far as it depends on human labor, 1-18th part, if the maintenance and attendance of the sick cost half the produce of their labor in health; an example will show how it would be erroneous to suppose that two populations, in which the same absolute proportion of sick existed, suffered, consequently, to an equal extent. A third part of the registered deaths occur below 5 years of age, yet the mortality in England has latterly (1813–30) not been more than 49.7 per 1000 at this early age; in Sweden it was (1755–75) 90.1 per 1000; and it is probable that at the same period the mortality of infants in England was not a great deal lower than in Sweden; so that, if sickness have diminished at the same rate, the proportion of infants constantly ill is not half so great as it was a century ago. But children being entirely helpless, and in no way contributing to the nation's actual strength, a diminution of sickness among them, however desirable, adds little immediately to national power and happiness, compared with an improvement in the health of adults, between the ages of 15 and 60 years, such as has been observed in London since the 16th century, when the destructive epidemics ceased.

"The magnitude of the subject, and the fact that more than a million of the inhabitants of the United Kingdom are disabled by disease and suffering, it is of less importance than the consideration that their condition may be ameliorated to an immeasurable extent. In one class of English counties the mortality of males below 5 years of age is still 81.9 per 1000, in others 41.9; and between the ages of 15 and 60 it varies from 11.0 to 19.0; implying a difference of 16 per 1000 in the sickness; so that, if the health of the entire 13½ millions, now between the ages of 15 and 60, in these islands, were as good as that enjoyed by the inhabitants of some counties, the numbers constantly sick would not be so numerous by 554,000, as if the standard of health were reduced to that obtaining in the more insalubrious districts. In the one case, the mean number sick would be 773,300; in the other, 1,336,000. Whether it be possible or not to raise the standard of health to the height enjoyed in the former counties, or to one still higher, the importance of the subject recommends it to a careful experimental investigation; because, when the character and causes of our diseases are known, some provision may be made for their alleviation; the extent of the injuries which they inflict upon the public will be determined; and the standard of salubrity, indicating an increase or diminution of physical strength, will afford the best index of prosperity of the nation, and of the extent to which it is affected by atmospherical, political, or economical influences."

BOSTON MEDICAL AND SURGICAL JOURNAL.

BOSTON, OCTOBER 23, 1839.

DISEASES OF THE EARLY SETTLERS OF OHIO.

We continue our extracts from Dr. Hildreth's Address before the late Medical Convention of Ohio.

"When the Ohio Company first took possession of the country along the borders of the Ohio and Muskingum rivers, the whole face of the earth was covered with a thick growth of forest trees, which defended it from the sultry heats of summer, and moderated the rigors of winter. Yet, from the history of our climate as detailed in the former part of this discourse, we may suppose they suffered occasionally from the diseases common to both the tropical and the arctic regions. They were sometimes attacked with malignant remittents in the summer, and pneumonias and pleurisies in the winter, but no serious epidemics appeared until partial openings had been made in the primeval forests, and the wet, low grounds exposed to the action of a summer sun. Half-business in cultivating and civilizing a country, is like half-way work in every other affair, often productive of evil. Accordingly we find that a partially cultivated region is more sickly than one which is either totally covered with forests, or in a state of complete redemption. The partially evaporated waters and reeking shores of the swamps, exhale a sickly malaria which the morning fogs and the noon-day breezes waft to the cabin of the new settler, and his humble but cheerful hearth is soon clouded with sickness, sorrow, and pain. The hunters and wild borderers who preceded the actual settler, generally suffered much less from sickness. Their cabins were placed immediately on the banks of some river or creek. Since the first settlement of the country many of the disorders have changed their type and character. From the year 1788, the period of the first improvements in Ohio, to the year 1807, the date of the first great epidemic, a large proportion of the diseases originated in exposures to wet, cold, hunger, and fatigue, and were generally of an inflammatory type, such as rheumatisms, pleurisies, pneumonias, scarlatina and smallpox. Ophthalmias were also common. For the first nine years the inhabitants made but little progress in clearing their land of the huge forest trees which covered the rich alluvion on the Ohio and Muskingum rivers. The greater portion of their time and strength was occupied in building stockaded garrisons and blockhouses, and watching the movements of the Indians. Sometimes their lives were in danger from famine, and at others from the rifle and tomahawk of the savage.

In the spring and summer of the year 1790, the inhabitants of Washington County suffered severely from want of wholesome food. Very little land had as yet been cleared, and a severe and untimely frost in September of the preceding year, having destroyed or greatly damaged the crops of corn on the Monongahela, where they chiefly looked for their bread stuff, the settlements were on the brink of being ruined and broken up. The Indian war began the following year, and they still continued to suffer from want of food. The savages killed and drove away many of their cattle; and, continually watching in the vicinity of their garrisons, prevented the hunters from obtaining a supply of venison, which at that day were more numerous than the domestic cattle at this. In this season of want, I have heard some of our present inhabitants, who were then children, relate with what anxiety they watched from day to day the tardy growth of the corn, beans and squashes, and with what rapture they partook of the first meal prepared from vegetables of their own raising,

In this period of time, viz., from 1790 to 1795, while confined in their garrisons, the settlements at Belleprie suffered much from smallpox and scarlatina. Of the latter disease many children died. Some families lost three or four. It was of a malignant character and very fatal. The smallpox was rendered in a manner harmless by inoculation. Fevers of the remitting type were rarely seen, so long as the country was wholly covered with forests.

"Some of the young females had become so habituated to danger that nothing pleased them better than a sudden alarm that the Indians were about to attack them, as the confusion and bustle of such a crisis gave a different train to their thoughts, and a relief to the sameness of a garrison life. This volatility of spirits, I have no doubt, preserved the early inhabitants from many attacks of disease and death. The leaders of the colonists were generally officers and soldiers who had served during the revolutionary war, familiar with danger and the structure of the human mind.

"*Malignant Fever at Galliopolis in the year* 1796.—This town was settled by a company of emigrants from France, in the year 1790. They had bought and paid for lands in their own country, from Joel Barlow, the agent of the '*Scioto Land Company*,' which, failing to close its contract with the Congress of the United States for a large tract of wilderness lying between the Scioto river and that of the Ohio Company's purchase, could not fulfil the agreement with these men; and they were left in a strange land, without a home, and without the means of purchasing one, as their journey and payments to the Scioto Company had exhausted their money. With want, disappointment, and the Indians to contend with for several years, sickness and death would naturally fall upon them. During the Indian war, which broke out on their arrival, they were confined to their garrison and could do but little towards clearing the lands on which they had been permitted to settle. Within the bounds of their village were numerous small ponds of water and wet low grounds, partially cleared and covered with weeds and decaying wood from the fallen trees. In the summer of 1796 a bilious remitting fever broke out, which prostrated nearly the entire population and caused a number of deaths. Amongst them was a cousin of the writer of this address, who had early visited the West and was engaged in the fur-trade.

"Andrew Ellicot, a celebrated engineer and surveyor, in a voyage down the Ohio river, landed there in November of that year. The following extract from his journal is copied from the fourth volume of the Medical Repository, and is the only account of this sickness which I have been able to procure:

" 'Arrived at Galliopolis about 11 o'clock in the morning. The village is a few miles below the mouth of the Great Kenhaway, on the west side of the Ohio river, and situated on a high bank. It is inhabited by a number of miserable French families. Many of the inhabitants this season fell victims to the *yellow fever*. The mortal cases were generally attended with *black vomiting*. This disorder certainly originated in the town, and in all probability from an ususual quantity of animal and vegetable putrefaction in a number of small ponds and marshes within the village.' "

Subsequent extracts from this record of diseases from the first settlement of the State of Ohio, down to the present year, will be introduced as opportunity presents.

Omental Hernia from a recent Accident.—A young man, by the name of Bailey, 16 years of age, while hunting partridges in Medford, about 5 weeks since, in the act of leaping over a stone wall, fell upon the right side and struck upon a sharp stump of a small tree, which penetrated the skin a little above the superior anterior spinous process of the ilium, and pursuing its course obliquely upwards and inwards passed under the edge of the rectus muscle, and entered the abdomen near the navel. The external opening was about 1½ inch in extent, while the opening through the tendinous sheath of the rectus and the peritoneum was equal to 3½ inches. The wound was followed by a protrusion of the omentum in a lacerated state, and found covered with gun powder, which had been in a glass bottle in his pocket, that was broken in the fall. Dr. Gregg, of Medford, was first called, and in about 5 hours, Dr. Walker, of Charlestown. After cleansing the parts of powder as well as could be done, they were returned into the abdomen, the patient treated on antiphlogistic principles, and we are happy to say has recovered without any unpleasant symptoms occurring.

Western Journal of Medicine and Surgery.—Messrs. Prentice & Weissinger, of Louisville, Ky., will publish the first number of a new medical periodical, the first day of January next. Drs. Drake and Rives, of Cincinnati, the publishing committee of the *Western* Journal of the Medical and Physical Sciences, have issued a circular to their old subscribers, in which they are notified, according to custom, that they are made over, bag and baggage, to the owners of the forthcoming Journal. The Louisville Magazine is to come out monthly, in eighty-four pages—no price mentioned—but it is officially announced that it will be conducted by the Professors of the Louisville Medical Institute. It is certainly very encouraging to have such literary and scientific power concentrated at a single point—but that very circumstance convinces us that it will not become remarkable for its longevity. Two editors connected with the same work, invariably involve themselves, and all who are concerned with them, in difficulty—losing both patronage and money; if there are more than two, the catastrophe comes the sooner.

Medical Miscellany.—M. Bournichet, a physician, has informed the Royal Academy of Sciences, at Paris, that he has discovered a certain cure for hydrophobia—of which he is so certain, that he offers to be bitten by a rabid dog in presence of the members, for the purpose of testing the efficacy of the remedy.—Sickness has prevailed at Opelousas, the cause of which was imputed to a long-continued drought.—The public health at New Orleans is now supposed to be improving; still, the deaths by yellow fever are numerous.—At Augusta, Georgia, the health of the city is also improving. From August 18th, the day on which the first death took place by yellow fever, to October 10th, 212 persons have died. It is a memorable fact that a woman, Mary Elbert, who had lived through the vicissitudes of 96 years, was carried off by this pestilence, which nothing can resist.—Mr. Espy is going to England to lecture on meteorology.—Dr. William Wilson has been appointed Physician and Superintendent of the Bloomingdale Asylum for the Insane, in place of Dr. Benjamin Ogden.—Professor R. M. Huston, of the Jefferson Medical College, Philadelphia, is transferred from the chair of Materia Medica to that of Midwifery—and Materia Medica is annexed to Dr. Dunglison's chair.—A Pathological Society was recently organized at Philadelphia, of which Dr. W. W. Gerhard is President.

Married,—In this city, Augustine C. Taft, M.D., of Uxbridge, Ms., to Miss Deborah M. Taylor; J. W. Warren, M.D., to Miss M. M. Robinson; Amos Bancroft, M.D., of Groton, Mass., to Miss Eliza Doane, of Boston.—At Saco, Me., Albert Bartlett, M.D., of Claremont, N. H., to Miss Susan Ann Calef.

Died,—At Gloucester, Mass., Dr. Henry Prentiss, 40.—At Watertown, N. C., Dr. J. G. Brehon, 29.

Whole number of deaths in Boston for the week ending Oct. 19, 38. Males, 22—females, 16.

Of consumption, 1—scarlet fever, 4—old age, 2—disease of the brain, 1—smallpox, 1—inflammation of the brain, 1—infantile, 3—diarrhœa, 1—teething, 1—lung fever, 2—croup, 2—fits, 1—hæmoptysis, 1—disease in the head, 1—scald, 1—inflammation of the bowels, 1—dropsy on the brain, 1—dysentery, 2—cancer in the breast, 1—hæmorrhage, 2—brain fever, 1—stoppage in the stomach, 2—apoplexy, 2—canker, 1—jaundice, 1—stillborn, 3.

MEDICAL LECTURES IN BOSTON.

The Medical Lectures in Harvard University will begin in the Medical College, Mason street, Boston, the first Wednesday in November next, at 9 o'clock, A. M., and continue sixteen weeks.

Anatomy, and Operations of Surgery, by	John C. Warren, M.D.
Chemistry, by	John W. Webster, M.D.
Midwifery and Medical Jurisprudence, by	Walter Channing, M.D.
Materia Medica and Clinical Medicine, by	Jacob Bigelow, M.D.
Principles of Surgery and Clinical Surgery, by	George Hayward, M.D.
Theory and Practice of Physic, by	John Ware, M.D.

At a meeting of the Faculty, it was

Voted, "That no two courses of Lectures shall be admitted to qualify students for gratuitous admission to Lectures in this School which have not been attended in separate years, or at least six months from each other.

WALTER CHANNING, Dean of the Faculty of Medicine.

Boston, July 10, 1839.

Jy 17—tN

JEFFERSON MEDICAL COLLEGE OF PHILADELPHIA.

Session of 1839-40.

The regular Lectures will commence on the first Monday of November. The following are the professors in the order of their appointment:—

1. Jacob Green, M.D., Professor of Chemistry.
2. Samuel McClellan, M.D., Professor of Midwifery, and Diseases of Women and Children.
3. Granville S. Pattison, M.D., Professor of Anatomy.
4. John Revere, M.D., Professor of the Principles and Practice of Physic.
5. Robley Dunglison, M.D., Professor of Institutes of Medicine and Medical Jurisprudence.
6. Robert M. Huston, M.D., Professor of Materia Medica and Pharmacy.
7. Joseph Pancoast, M.D., Professor of Principles and Practice of Surgery.

On and after the 1st of October the dissecting rooms will be kept open, and the Professor of Anatomy will give his personal attendance thereto. Lectures will likewise be delivered regularly during the month on various branches, and opportunities for clinical instruction will be afforded at the Philadelphia Hospital under the Professor of Institutes of Medicine; and at the dispensary of the college under the Professors of Physic and Surgery.

Fee for each professor for the whole course, $15. Graduation fee, $30.

Aug 7—tN1

JOHN REVERE, M.D., *Dean of the Faculty.*

MEDICAL INSTRUCTION.

The subscribers are associated for the purpose of giving Medical Instruction. Students will be admitted to the medical and surgical departments of the Massachusetts General Hospital, may see cases in one of the Dispensary Districts, and have abundant opportunities for observing the smallpox and varioloid diseases. They will receive clinical instruction upon the cases which they witness and during the interval of the regular lectures at the College, they will receive instruction by lectures and recitations upon the various departments of medical science. Ample opportunities will be afforded for the cultivation of practical anatomy. They have access to a large library, and are provided with a study, free of expense.

Applications may be made to either of the subscribers.

M. S. PERRY, M.D.
H. I. BOWDITCH, M.D.
J. V. C. SMITH, M.D.
H. G. WILEY, M.D.

Oct 9—eop

SCHOOL FOR MEDICAL INSTRUCTION.

The subscribers are associated for receiving pupils, and affording them every facility for obtaining a complete medical education. Their pupils will have access to the medical and surgical practice of the Massachusetts General Hospital, to the Massachusetts Eye and Ear Infirmary, and to surgical operations in private practice. Instruction will be given by examinations and lectures in the interval of the public lectures at the Medical College. Facilities will be afforded for the prosecution of practical anatomy. A room is provided with books, &c., for the use of the students.

JOHN C. WARREN,
JOHN B. S. JACKSON,
ROBERT W. HOOPER,
J. MASON WARREN.

Oct. 9—tf

PRIVATE MEDICAL INSTRUCTION.

The subscribers are associated for the purpose of giving a complete course of medical instruction. Their pupils will have regular access to the medical and surgical practice of the Massachusetts General Hospital. They will be admitted, also, to the practice of the House of Correction, which constantly presents a large number of important cases, and where opportunities will be afforded for acquiring a practical knowledge of compounding and dispensing medicines. They will be furnished with opportunities for the study of Practical Anatomy, not inferior to any in the country. To the pupils, particularly to those in the last year of their professional studies, facilities will be afforded for acquiring a personal acquaintance with private medical and obstetric practice. Instruction by examinations or lectures will be given in the different branches of medical studies, during the interval between the public lectures of the University. Books, and a room with fire and lights, will be furnished to the students at the expense of the instructers.

GEORGE C. SHATTUCK,
WALTER CHANNING,
JOHN WARE,
GEORGE W. OTIS, Jr.
WINSLOW LEWIS, Jr.

Oct. 31—eptf

THOMPSON'S APPARATUS FOR THE CURE OF PROLAPSUS UTERI, &c.

n offering his instrument to the faculty, Dr Thompson would call their attention to the following statements, and request all interested to examine the article in the hands of his agents

Extract of a letter from the late Professor Eberle, to the Hon. H. L. Ellsworth, Commissioner of Patents, &c., dated

Cincinnati, May 11, 1837.—"I have carefully examined the new *Uterine Truss* invented by Dr. Robert Thompson, of Columbus, in this State, and I can confidently declare, that it is unquestionably the most perfect and useful instrument of the kind, that has ever been offered to the public. It differs essentially in its construction, from the Uterine Truss contrived by Dr. Hull, and is, in all respects, a far superior instrument."

See, also, "The Western Journal of Medical and Physical Sciences."

Professor McCleland, of Jefferson Medical College, Philadelphia, Pa., declared, upon examining the instrument, that "every word of Dr. Eberle's opinion is true." Professors Channing and Hayward, of Boston, expressed like opinions.

Extract of a letter from Prof. Sewall to Prof. Bigelow, dated

18th May, 1837.—"Dr. Thompson will be pleased to show you a *Uterine Truss* which he has invented, of very superior structure to anything we have."

Extract of a letter from Prof. Peixotto to Dr. Thompson, dated

Columbus, Jan. 10, 1838.—"Your instrument, it appears to me, is formed on principles more enlarged, than those hitherto recommended for the same end, and mechanically different. I would cheerfully recommend its adoption by our professional brethren generally."

For sale in Boston by Theodore Metcalf, apothecary, No. 33 Tremont Row. Price, $10.

June 12—1y

SITUATION WANTED.

A physician of experience would like to hear of some location favorable for the practice of his profession. Partnership with some individual who wishes to retire in part from the duties of his profession, would be preferred. Satisfactory reference as to character, professional and moral, will be given. Inquire of the editor; if by mail, post-paid.

Oct. 16—3t

THE BOSTON MEDICAL AND SURGICAL JOURNAL is published every Wednesday, by D. CLAPP, JR., at 184 Washington St., corner of Franklin St., to whom all communications must be addressed, post paid. It is also published in Monthly Parts, with a printed cover. There are two volumes each year. J. V. C. SMITH, M.D., Editor. Price $3,00 a year in advance, $3,50 after three months, or $4,00 if not paid within the year. Two copies to the same address, for $5,00 a year, in advance. Orders from a distance must be accompanied by payment in advance or satisfactory reference. Postage the same as for a newspaper.